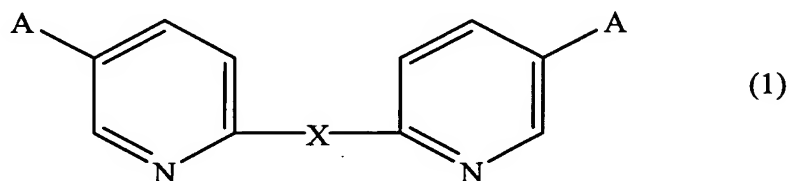


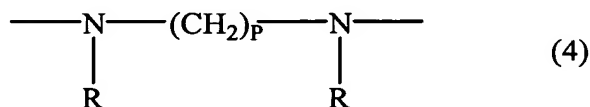
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof:



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group of formula (4) :



wherein, in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein, A is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted furyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzofuryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl group.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) ~~derivative~~ compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) ~~derivative~~ compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein said phenyl group or said pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, benzofuryl or benzothienyl group is substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group

consisting of lower alkyl groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, hydroxy(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy groups, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, (lower alkyl)thio groups, amino, mono- or di-(lower alkyl)amino groups, (lower alkyl)sufonylamino groups, formyl, carboxyl, (lower alkoxy)carbonyl groups, lower alkanoyl groups, pyrrolidinyl, and alkylenedioxy groups.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein the lower alkyl group R is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim [[4]] 2, wherein said phenyl group or said pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, benzofuryl or benzothienyl group is substituted by [[said]] 1 to 3 substituents [[are]] selected from the group consisting of methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, trifluoroethoxy, methoxyethoxy, hydroxyethoxy, fluorine, chlorine, hydroxy, cyano, methylthio, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, formyl, carboxyl, ethoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, propionyloxy, N-methyl-N-methoxycarbamoyl, acetyl, and methylenedioxy.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 4, wherein said bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound is N,N'-bis[5-(3,4,5-trimethoxy-phenyl)-2-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine dimethanesulfonate.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A therapeutic ~~agent~~ composition having IgE antibody production inhibiting activity, comprising, as an active ingredient, an effective amount of a bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

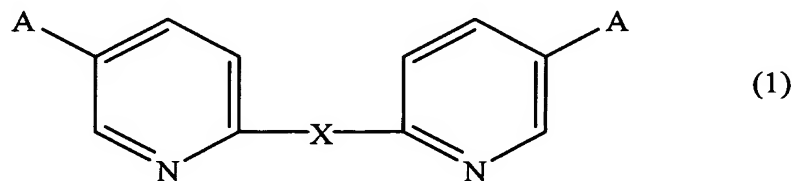
Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ~~therapeutic agent having IgE antibody production inhibiting activity~~ method according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, wherein said allergic immune disease is asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis or an allergic ophthalmopathy.

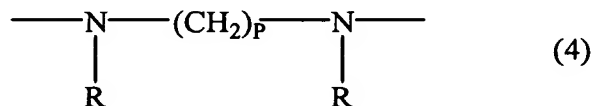
Claims 12 and 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A method of treating a subject suffering from an allergic immune disease, which comprises:

administering an effective amount of the bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof represented by formula (1)



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group of formula (4):



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wherein, in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6, to said subject.

Claim 15 (canceled).